THE PENDING CLAIMS

1-162. (cancelled).

163. (previously presented) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising,

a shaft having a curved portion; and

a sling assembly including

a urethral support sling having a substantially flat shape,

a pouch for covering only partially the sling, and

an end for associating with an end of the shaft.

164. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the shaft comprises first and second ends, the first end of the shaft attaches to a handle, and the second end of the shaft associates with the sling assembly.

165. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the shaft comprises a channel located at a distal end.

166. (previously presented) The system of claim 165, wherein the channel is lockable for locking the end of the sling assembly in the channel.

167. (previously presented) The system of claim 166, wherein the channel is releasably lockable.

168. (previously presented) The system of claim 163 comprising a spring loaded locking mechanism for locking the end of the sling assembly in the channel.

169. (cancelled)

170. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the sling assembly comprises an elongated extension located at the end of the sling assembly.

171. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the sling assembly comprises an aperture located at the end of the sling assembly.

172. (cancelled)

173. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second ends of the sling assembly.

174. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

175. (previously presented) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising,

a shaft having a curved portion and an interlocking mating structure on a distal end of the shaft; and

a sling assembly comprising a urethral support sling having a substantially flat shape, and a complementary interlocking mating structure.

176. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the interlocking mating structure of the shaft is inserted into the complementary interlocking mating structure of the sling assembly.

177. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the shaft is lockable to the sling assembly.

178. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the shaft is releasably lockable to the sling assembly.

179. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the sling assembly is indirectly connected to the shaft.

180. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the complementary interlocking mating structure is indirectly connected to the sling assembly.

181. (cancelled)

182. (previously presented) The system of claim 175, wherein the sling assembly further comprises a pouch for covering only partially the sling.

183. (previously presented) The system of claim 182, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second end of the sling assembly.

184. (previously presented) The system of claim 182, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

185. (previously presented) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising,

a shaft having a curved portion and a distal end; and

a sling assembly comprising a urethral support sling having a substantially flat shape, and an end for receiving the distal end of the shaft.

186. (previously presented) The system of claim 185, wherein the shaft is lockable to the sling assembly.

187. (previously presented) The system of claim 185, wherein the shaft is releasably lockable to the sling assembly.

188. (previously presented) The system of claim 185, wherein the sling assembly is indirectly connected to the shaft.

189. (cancelled)

190. (previously presented) The system of claim 185, wherein the sling assembly further comprises a pouch for covering only partially the sling.

191. (previously presented) The system of claim 190, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second ends of the sling assembly.

192. (previously presented) The system of claim 190, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

193. (previously presented) A system for treating urinary incontinence comprising,

a handle;

a shaft attached to the handle and having a channel located at an end and a curved portion; and

a sling assembly comprising a urethral support sling having a substantially flat shape, and an end for associating with the channel of the shaft.

194. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the channel is lockable for locking the end of the sling assembly in the channel.

195. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the channel is releasably lockable.

196. (previously presented) The system of claim 193 comprising a spring loaded locking mechanism for locking the end of the sling assembly in the channel.

197. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the sling assembly comprises an elongated extension located at the end of the sling assembly.

198. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the sling assembly comprises an aperture located at the end of the sling assembly.

199. (cancelled)

200. (previously presented) The system of claim 193, wherein the sling assembly further comprises a pouch for covering only partially the sling.

201. (previously presented) The system of claim 200, wherein the pouch comprises an opening intermediate to first and second ends of the sling assembly.

202. (previously presented) The system of claim 200, wherein the pouch is substantially flat.

203. (previously presented) The system of claim 163, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.

204. (previously presented) The system of claim 182, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.

205. (previously presented) The system of claim 190, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.

206. (previously presented) The system of claim 200, wherein the pouch covers an end of the sling.